

AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO SETTLE CLAIMS AND SUITS AGAINST THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARCH 7 (legislative day, JANUARY 29), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HUNT, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 262]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S.262) to amend section 3 of an act authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to settle claims and suits against the District of Columbia, approved February 11, 1929, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to allow the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to settle claims and suits against the District up to the amount of \$10,000, rather than \$5,000 as presently provided. It would also give the Commissioners authority to settle, up to the amount of \$10,000, suits brought by the District against others; under present law the Commissioners have no authority whatever to settle such claims. Testimony before the committee showed that in many cases the District of Columbia has suffered losses because of its inability to accept favorable terms proposed by litigants against the District. The provisions of existing law have been in effect since 1929, and the changes in price levels since then make the new amount desirable.

The bill was requested by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and was reported unanimously by the full Committee on the District of Columbia.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law in the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed

in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

(45 STAT. 1160) FEBRUARY 11, 1929

Sec. 3. No settlement of any claim or cause of action herein authorized to be made by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall in any event exceed the sum of **["\$5,000"] \$10,000** and all settlements entered into by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia acting under the terms and provisions of this Act shall be presented to the Congress, together with a brief statement of the nature of the claim or suit, the amount claimed, and the amount of the settlement, with a summary of the evidence and circumstances under which the settlement was made. Appropriations for the payment of such settlements are hereby authorized, payment thereof to be made in the same manner as are other expenditures for the District of Columbia.

SEC. 5. That upon a report by the corporation counsel of the District of Columbia showing in detail the just and true amount and condition of any claim or suit which the District of Columbia may now or hereafter have against any person, firm, association, or corporation, and the terms upon which the same may be compromised, and stating that in his opinion a compromise of such claim or suit would be for the best interest of the District of Columbia, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they hereby are, authorized to compromise such claim or suit accordingly: Provided, however, That no claim or suit so compromised shall be reduced by an amount greater than \$10,000: And provided further, That this section shall not apply to claims or suits for taxes or special assessments.